

Michigan Reads!

One State, One Preschool Book Program

Honorary Chair Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and State Librarian Christie Pearson Brandau invite you to take part in Michigan Reads! 2004, a "one state, one book" program that highlights the importance of early-childhood literacy by focusing on a picture book for children ages 0 to 5.



The goals of Michigan Reads! are to:

- Promote the value of reading early and often to preschoolers to instill a love of reading;
- Encourage family bonding through reading; and
- Increase awareness and usage of Michigan's hundreds of public libraries!

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES NOW THROUGH APRIL 2004

- Public voting on five main selections:
 - *Barnyard Song* by Rhonda Gowler Greene
 - *Duck on a Bike* by David Shannon
 - *Kiss Good Night* by Amy Hest
 - *Mama Cat Has Three Kittens* by Denise Fleming
 - *One Dark Night* by Lisa Wheeler
- Add your favorite "book moment" to the Web site
- Workshops for parents and caregivers
- Author visits statewide
- Read-aloud sessions in communities across the state by local celebrities, local librarians, teachers and YOU!

For more information, visit the Michigan Reads! Web site at
www.michigan.gov/hal

Early-childhood literacy is vital.

- Learning to read begins far before children enter formal schooling.
- Babies are born learning, long before it becomes apparent to most parents.
- What young children learn in their first five years becomes the foundation for how they learn, manage their emotions, cope with stress, relate to others and, generally, handle life in the future.
- Children need parents and caregivers who talk to them, sing to them and read to them daily. The shared book experience between an adult and child is very powerful!
- Research shows that children most at risk for reading failure are those who enter school with limited exposure to literacy-related activities.
- Children who have stimulating literacy experiences from birth onward enter school with larger vocabularies, better listening skills, and enhanced memory and imagination.

Public libraries provide important resources.

- Public libraries are, and have been, in a remarkable position to expose children to great quantities of print and meaningful language opportunities that researchers say are crucial to reading achievement.
- Children who have been exposed to library pre-school programs show a greater number of emergent-literacy behaviors and pre-reading skills than those who were not.
- Libraries are full of resources and librarians that can help parents and caregivers learn how to model good reading behaviors. Librarians are among the best at helping patrons navigate through the many resources available, too. Take advantage of their expertise!

How can I participate in Michigan Reads?

- Parents, grandparents, and caregivers are vital to pre-reading literacy. Read to your child, your grandchild, and the children in your care every day.
- There are children in our communities who, for many reasons, have not experienced the joys of reading. Volunteer to read at your local library or community center; you'll be glad you did!

For more information about emergent literacy, reading aloud to preschoolers, and opportunities to participate in and sponsor Michigan Reads! programs, visit the Web site at www.michigan.gov/hal or send an e-mail to michiganreads@michigan.gov